

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 16, 18 and 20, amend claims 1, 4 and 17 and add new claims 21 and 22 so that the claims hereafter read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An article of thermal clothing for covering an underlying area at a gap between a coat sleeve and a glove, said article comprising:

a tube having a distal portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a side opening formed in the distal portion adjacent to but spaced from the distal end;

said tube being formed out of a fabric that is flexible and stretchable, wherein the fabric retains a memory of the shape of a wearer's hand and forearm so that after repeated uses by the wearer, said tube tends to be form fitting;

said tube being sized so that it can be snugly fit over the wearer's hand and forearm so that the distal end of said tube is positioned near a midpalm area of the hand and the proximal end of said tube is positioned at a forearm area, with the wearer's thumb extending out through the tube's side opening; and

a pocket fixed to said tube, and wherein the pocket is open at a selected end thereof and adapted to receive a selected article therein;

wherein the pocket is sized to accept and hold a warming device, a credit card, an identification card, or a driver's license;

wherein the pocket is positioned on said tube so that when the user is wearing the tube, the pocket extends from the mid-palm area of the user to proximally of the thumb of the user; and further wherein the pocket terminates sufficiently far from the proximal end of the tube so that when the user is wearing the tube, and the article is held in the pocket, the user will retain substantially complete flexibility of the wrist.

2. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein the fabric comprises a fleece-type knitted polyester.

3. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 2 wherein the fleece-type knitted polyester comprises a circular construction so as to form an extremely tight knit fabric.

4. (Currently Amended) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 3 wherein the fabric further comprises added fibers chosen from a group consisting of two or four way stretch nylon-like material, spandex, Lycra, cotton, wool, nylon, rayon, and blends thereof.

5. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 4 wherein the fleece-type fabric is capable of providing good thermal insulation without providing skin stimulation therapy to skin coming into contact with said tube, and said tube is sized so that it can be snugly fit over the wearer's hand and forearm without providing therapeutic compression thereto.

6. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein the side opening is formed substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of said tube.

7. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 6 wherein the side opening is: (i) sized to form a close fit with the base of the wearer's thumb so as to restrict movement of said tube relative to the hand of the wearer, and (ii) resistant to unraveling so as to inhibit enlargement of the opening when said tube is snugly fit over the wearer's hand and forearm.

8. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein the fabric is capable of providing uninhibited movement of the wearer's hand relative to the wearer's forearm.

9. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein said tube further includes reflective means for increasing the visibility of the wearer, said reflective means being positioned on at least the portion of said tube disposed in the gap between the coat sleeve and the glove.

10. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein the side opening is formed in the distal portion of said tube and spaced proximally from the distal end so as to position the distal portion of said tube substantially over the entire palm of the hand when the thumb is disposed within the side opening.

11. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein the distal end of said tube is stitched so as to maintain said tube in snug engagement with the midpalm area of the wearer's hand.

12. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein said tube further includes a relatively durable material fastened to a portion of the tube's distal portion and disposed on the midpalm area.

13. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 12 wherein the relatively durable material comprises leather.

14. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 1 wherein said tube comprises a second side opening disposed proximally of the side opening forming a close fit with said base of said wearer's thumb, said second side opening being sized and positioned along said tube so as to provide access to a watch disposed on the forearm.

15. (Original) An article of thermal clothing according to claim 14 wherein said tube comprises a third side opening disposed in opposing relation to said second side opening, thereby adapting said tube to be worn on either the wearer's left or right arm.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An article of thermal clothing for covering an underlying area at a gap between a coat sleeve and a glove, said article comprising:

a tube having a distal portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a side opening formed in the distal portion adjacent to but spaced from the distal end;

said tube being formed out of a fabric that is flexible and stretchable, wherein the fabric retains a memory of the shape of a wearer's hand and forearm so that after repeated uses by the wearer, said tube tends to be form fitting;

said tube being sized so that it can be snugly fit over the wearer's hand and forearm so that the distal end of said tube is positioned near a midpalm area of the hand and the proximal end of said tube is positioned at the forearm area, with the wearer's thumb extending out through the tube's side opening; and

a pocket fixed to said tube, wherein the pocket is open at a selected end thereof and adapted to receive a selected article therein;

wherein the pocket is sized to accept and hold a warming device, a credit card, an identification card, or a driver's license;

wherein the pocket is positioned on said tube so that when the user is wearing the tube, the pocket extends from the mid-palm area of the user to proximally of the thumb of the user;

and further wherein the pocket terminates sufficiently far from the proximal end of the tube so that when the user is wearing the tube, and the article is held in the pocket, the user will retain substantially complete flexibility of the wrist;

said tube including reflective means for increasing the visibility thereof, said reflective means being positioned on said tube between the proximal end and the side opening adjacent to the wearer's wrist.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The article of clothing in accordance with claim 1 wherein said pocket is open at a proximal end thereof.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) An article of thermal clothing for covering an underlying area at a gap between a coat sleeve and a glove, said article comprising:

a tube having a distal portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a side opening formed in the distal portion adjacent to but spaced from the distal end;

said tube being formed out of a fabric that is flexible and stretchable, wherein the fabric retains a memory of the shape of a wearer's hand and forearm so that after repeated uses by the wearer, said tube tends to be form fitting;

said tube being sized so that it can be snugly fit over the wearer's hand and forearm so that the distal end of said tube is positioned near a midpalm area of the hand and the proximal end of said tube is positioned at a forearm area, with the wearer's thumb extending out through the tube's side opening; and

a pocket fixed to said tube and open at a selected end and adapted to receive a selected article;

wherein said tube comprises a second side opening disposed proximally of the side opening forming a close fit with said base of said wearer's thumb, said second side opening being sized and positioned along said tube so as to provide access to a watch disposed on the forearm.

22. (New) An article of thermal clothing for covering an underlying area at a gap between a coat sleeve and a glove, said article comprising:

a tube having a distal portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a side opening formed in the distal portion adjacent to but spaced from the distal end;

said tube being formed out of a fabric that is flexible and stretchable, wherein the fabric retains a memory of the shape of a wearer's hand and forearm so that after repeated uses by the wearer, said tube tends to be form fitting;

said tube being sized so that it can be snugly fit over the wearer's hand and forearm so that the distal end of said tube is positioned near a midpalm area of the hand and the proximal end of said tube is positioned at a forearm area, with the wearer's thumb extending out through the tube's side opening; and

a pocket fixed to said tube and open at a selected end and adapted to receive a selected article;

wherein said tube comprises a third side opening disposed in opposing relation to said second side opening, thereby adapting said tube to be worn on either the wearer's left or right arm.